

REMARKS

Claims 1-27 are now pending in the above-referenced patent application. In this amendment, claims 1-9 have been amended and claims 10-27 have been added. In the Notice of Allowability, mailed on January 3, 2006, the Examiner allowed claims 1-9. Assignee would like to thank the Examiner for finding allowable subject matter. It is respectfully submitted that new claims 10-27 are in a condition for allowance for at least reasons similar to those that may have been presented with respect to claims 1-9. Therefore, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner allow claims 1-27 to proceed to allowance.

It is noted that the specification supports new claims 10-27. For example, support may be found at least from paragraph [0016] – [0019] and Figs. 1-3. Further, claims 1-9 were amended to more clearly delineate intended subject matter and are not intended to be narrowing amendments. In fact, some of these amendments are believed to be broadening amendments. Accordingly, no prosecution history estoppel should apply.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments to the claims, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner enter these amendments so that the application may proceed to allowance. If the Examiner has any questions, he is invited to contact the undersigned at (503) 439-6500.

Please charge any shortages and credit any overcharges of any fees required for this submission to Deposit Account number 50-3703.

Respectfully submitted,

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